

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-20

PC-04 DRC-01 /141 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2035

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS: FURTHER OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL
RETURNS (REPORT NO. 4)

REF: CARACAS 10469

SUMMARY: PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE FOR AD TO WIN THE PRESIDENCY,
PROBABLY BY A CONSIDERABLE MARGIN. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 4 P.M. DECEMBER 10, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CSE)
ISSUED ITS THIRD OFFICIAL BULLETIN WHICH GIVES COPEI'S LORENZO
FERNANDEZ 39,617 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES TO 39,103 FOR ACCION
DEMOCRATICA'S CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. THIRD IS THE
MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO'S (MAS) JOSE VICENTE RANGEL WITH 5,437
PRESIDENTIAL VOTES; FOURTH IS MEP'S PAZ GALARRAGA WITH 1,777;
FIFTH IS URD'S FOVITO VILLALBA WITH 1,705. THE CSE VOTE COMPILATION
IS PROCEEDING WITH AGONIZING SLOWNESS, AND THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS
THE CSE WILL NOT PROCLAIM THE WINNER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE
UNTIL DECEMBER 12 AT THE EARLIEST.

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2. MEANTIME AD EUPHORIC*LLY CONTINUES TO CLAIM PEREZ IS LEADING FERNANDEZ BY OVER 300,000 VOTES, WHILE LATEST COPEI UNOFFICIAL FIGURES GIVE FERNANDEZ 979,363 PRESIDENTIAL VOTES TO 929,406 FOR PEREZ.

COPEI HAS ALMOST CEASED PUTTING OUT ITS OWN ELECTION RESULTS AND HAS ADOPTED A PUBLIC STANCE OF GRIMLY WAITING FOR OFFICIAL RESULTS FROM THE CSE.

3. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO RECEIVE NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT COPEI PARTY LEADERS ARE PLUNGED INTO GLOOM OVER THE APPARENT TREND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE-COUNT AND ARE PRIVATELY CONCEDING VICTORY TO CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, WHICH AD LEADERS ARE JOYFULLY PREDICTING A SUBSTANTIAL MARGIN OF VICTORY FOR THEIR MAN. ABOUT NOON ON DECEMBER 10, MAS'S JOSE VICENTE RANGEL PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PEREZ SEEMED TO BE THE WINNER. VARIOUS OTHER OBSERVERS FROM NEITHER MAJOR PARTY ARE PREDICTING A BIG WIN FOR PEREZ.

4. THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT, IF PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE BORNE OUT, PEREZ WILL WIN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BY A CONSIDERABLE MARGIN.

5. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO SUBMIT ITS NEXT REPORT ON THE ELECTION RETURNS MORNING OF DECEMBER 11.

MCCLINTOCK

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